

# Bills given key to the village

by Eddie Farrell/Editor – Ruidoso Free Press - Apr 27, 2011



**Eddie Farrell/Ruidoso Free Press Ruidoso Mayor Ray Alborn presents a Key to the Village Tuesday to U.S. Army Brigadier General Mike Bills, commander of Joint Task Force “ North at Fort Bliss, Texas.**

With Ruidoso’s Military Appreciation Weekend activities just around the corner, Mayor Ray Alborn presented a Key to the Village to U.S. Army Brigadier General Mike Bills Tuesday.

Bills commands the Joint Task Force North at Fort Bliss, one of five major commands expected to participate in MAW activities Friday and Saturday at the Sierra Blanca Regional Airport and at a dinner honoring veterans past and present at Ruidoso Middle School.

Village officials announced that Bills schedule precluded his participation in the planned MAW activities, so a copy of a covenant between the village and the various military commands was signed by Alborn and Bills Tuesday during the Village Council meeting.

Bills thanked the council, and the efforts made by the MAW and Military 365 committees for what you do for our military.

Ruidoso’s pro-military stance, Bills said, is huge in the eyes of military troops based in the area.

MAW 2011 officially kicks off Thursday with a golf tournament.

Participating units from Holloman and Cannon Air Force bases, White Sands Missile Range, Ft. Bliss and the New Mexico National Guard are expected to arrive and convoy through Ruidoso to the airport throughout Friday.

Activities at the SBRA are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday and will run throughout the day with static displays, fly-overs and activities that are all open to the public.

The Awards Dinner Banquet will begin at 6 pm. at Ruidoso Middle School, and will feature keynote speaker, BGen. Jack Fox, and a number of special guests, including U.S. Army veteran Joshua Bullis, who suffered severe injuries in combat in Afghanistan.